

In Th Claims:

Please amend claims 1-5, 7-8, 11 and 13 to read as follows.

1. (Amended) A removable cleated outersole system comprising:
- an athletic footcovering having a permanent substantially flat treaded bottom,
 - the treaded bottom having a toe portion, a heel portion, a perimeter side surface,
 - the perimeter side surface defining the perimeter shape of the permanent treaded bottom of the athletic footcovering;
 - an elastically deformable band defining a continuous loop,
 - the band having a top edge and a bottom edge,
 - the bottom edge of the band formed in the shape of the perimeter shape of the permanent treaded bottom of the athletic footcovering;
 - a substantially planar sole surface coupled to the bottom edge of the band, the sole surface configured in the perimeter shape of the permanent treaded bottom of the athletic footcovering, the sole surface sized to extend between the toe portion and the heel portion of the athletic footcovering,
 - the sole surface having a bottom side; and
 - a plurality of sport cleats protruding from the bottom side of the sole surface.

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2. (Amended) The removable cleated outersole of claim 1 further comprising:
an anchoring strap having a first end and a second end,
the first end connected to the elastically deformable band,
the second end connected to the elastically deformable band,
the sole surface having a toe cap sized to cover the toe portion of
the athletic footcovering; and
a rigid substantially planar sole plate coupled to and supporting the sole
surface, the sole plate formed in the same shape as the sole surface.

3. (Amended) The removable cleated outersole of claim 2 wherein the anchoring
strap is releasably connected to the deformable band and wherein the plurality of
sport cleats are turf knobs formed as part of the bottom side of the sole surface
of the removable cleated outersole.

4. (Amended) The removable cleated outersole of claim 1 wherein the elastically
deformable band has a tapered cross-section, is made with spandex rubber and
is the sole means for attaching the outersole to the athletic footcovering.

5. (Amended) The removable cleated outersole of claim 1 wherein the sole surface
includes a rigid sole plate, the rigid sole plate sized to hav[ing]e the same
perimeter shape and dimensions as the treaded bottom of the athletic
footcovering.

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7. (Amended) The removable cleated outersole of claim 5 wherein the sport cleats
are in the shape of a truncated cone with conical sides and have at least two
different heights relative to one another when measured from a bottom of the
sole surface.

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8. (Amended) An athletic footwear system consisting of:
- a removable outersole having a rigid planar sole plate;
 - a sneaker with heel portion and a toe portion,
 - the sneaker also having a permanent continuous treaded external sole with an outside perimeter edge,
 - the removable outersole covering the external sole,
 - the permanent treaded external sole of the sneaker adapted for use without the removable outersole,
 - the permanent treaded external sole being substantially planar;
 - a plurality of sport cleats protruding from the removable outersole; and,
 - an elastically deformable band secured to the entire perimeter of the removable outersole,
 - the elastically deformable band sized to removably secure the removable outersole to the permanent treaded sole.
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11. (Amended) The athletic footwear of claim 8 wherein the removable rigid planar sole plate is directly coupled to the elastically deformable band
- and wherein a top surface of the rigid planar sole plate contacts the sneaker when the removable outersole is secured to the sneaker,
 - the elastically deformable band also defining a toe cap sized to fit over the toe portion of the sneaker,
 - the elastically deformable band also having a tapered cross-section ending in a point.
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13. (Amended) A method of securing turf knobs to an athletic footcovering, the athletic footcovering having bottom treads and a top, the method comprising :
stretching an elastically deformable band around the perimeter of the bottom treads of the athletic footcovering,
the elastically deformable band being shaped in the perimeter outline of the bottom treads of the athletic footcovering,
the elastically deformable band having an outersole secured to it,
the outersole having a top surface and a bottom surface,
the outersole having a plurality of turf knobs protruding from it the turf knobs being integrally formed on the bottom surface of the outersole and having at least two different heights when measured from the bottom surface ; and
releasing the elastically deformable band.

Please add new claims 17-19.

17 (New) The method of claim 13 wherein the outersole includes a substantially flat and rigid sole plate spanning an arch support of the footcovering.

18. (New) The method of claim 13 wherein the turf knobs are in the shape of a truncated cone having inwardly bowed sidewalls.

19. (New) The method of claim 13 wherein the entire top surface of the outersole is substantially flat and in contact with treads from the footcovering.

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application. Various combinations of claims 1-16 stand rejected as allegedly unpatentable pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103, and 112.